



**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MODERNLETTERS**

**CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAMME**

**CREW 254 SHORT FICTION WORKSHOP  
20 POINTS**

**TRIMESTER 1 2014**

## **Important dates**

**Trimester dates:** 3 March to 2 July 2014

**Teaching dates:** 3 March to 6 June 2014

**Easter/Mid-trimester break:** 18 April to 4 May 2014

**Last assessment item due:** 20 June 2014

**Study week:** 9 – 13 June 2014

**Examination/Assessment Period:** 13 June to 2 July 2014

**Withdrawal dates:** Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds). If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

## **Class times and locations**

The course consists of twelve workshops.

These will take place 10am-1pm on Fridays in the seminar room at the Stout Research Centre, 12 Waiteata Road (Room 203), Kelburn Campus.

## **Names and contact details**

Workshop convenor	William Brandt
Room	404, 16 Waiteata Road
Work phone	463 6854
Email	<a href="mailto:William.brandt@vuw.ac.nz">William.brandt@vuw.ac.nz</a>

## **Communication of additional information**

Any additional information will be handed out in class or distributed to students by email.

## Prescription

A workshop course in writing short fiction which also involves wide reading in the genre.

## Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Analyse how successful short fiction achieves its effects.
2. Edit and improve their own stories in light of both critical reading of texts, and class discussions.

## Teaching format

CREW 254 gives recognition to creative work in short fiction writing. By the end of the workshop each member of the course should have developed

- their writing skills and understanding of the craft of writing fiction
- their sophistication as a reader of fiction.

These goals are achieved through

- writing exercises
- reading published fiction, and keeping a reading journal
- discussion and written commentaries on each other's work
- steady progress towards the workshop's assessment folio.

CREW 254 investigates the art of the short story. We will read a range of contemporary short fiction to develop appreciation for the form. The set texts are intended to give you a broad sense of what is possible in a short story, while also providing illustrations and examples for our discussions on craft. You will keep a journal over the duration of the course, investigating the published stories in the light of your own creative decisions and struggles.

The course relies on the workshop process, in which you put drafts of your writing in front of a small, supportive audience, and receive feedback from fellow practitioners. For the first three weeks of the course, you will bring an in-class exercise for discussion. Exercises will explore particular craft aspects of story writing, but will also seek to develop individual voice and imaginative range.

After this, we will start to workshop draft stories. On two occasions during the trimester you will put forward a story in progress. You will receive both written and oral feedback from each member of the workshop, responses intended to help as you as you refine and redraft for the final folio. In turn, you will read, consider and mark up your classmates' draft stories. You should come to class prepared to discuss these in detail, and provide a written commentary on each story of about half a page.

## Individual Meetings

In addition to the workshops, I would like to meet with each of you once during the trimester to discuss your folio content. This will be at a time convenient to both of us.

## Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, student must:

### 1. Meet the following deadlines:

A completed draft story to be handed out to class on each of these two dates (note this is the week *before* your workshop date):

**Group 1:** details to be advised by the convenor

**Group 2:** details to be advised by the convenor

**Group 3:** details to be advised by the convenor

**Group 4:** details to be advised by the convenor

Three students will be assigned to each group at our first meeting. Usually, you would hand out a different story on each of the two dates unless there was a particularly strong case to workshop a story a second time. One of the drafts should be 1000 words or more, and the other 2500 words or more.

**Friday 20 June: Journal Due.** You should aim to write something for your journal each week. It needs to include reflections on at least four short stories (often those read in class). It also gives you a record of your progress and process as a writer. The journal will be read by the course convenor. It will not be marked but is a course requirement.

**Three written commentaries** on hour classmates' stories are due **each week** for the last eight meetings of the course (except the week of your own workshop, when you will write two). Two or three paragraphs of commentary is sufficient; your comments may either be typed up or handwritten on the manuscript. If you are absent, you will need to give your classmates the written commentaries on your return.

**Friday 20 June:** final folios due for everyone (6,000 – 12,000 words; three or more stories).

### 2. Comply with the following attendance:

Students are expected to attend all twelve meetings in CREW 254, as it is unsatisfactory to run a workshop process with missing members. A single absence due to extenuating circumstances would usually be excused; further absences would make it unlikely that you would pass the course.

### 3. Be punctual:

The workshops begin promptly. Students need to be seated in the workshop room a couple of minutes before the start.

If you do not comply with these mandatory requirements, your folio may not be assessed and you would automatically fail the course.

## Workload

It is hard to assess the workload for this course. CREW 254 is formally a 20 point undergraduate course, but many students tend to treat it as a full-time undertaking. You should certainly expect to be busy. Fulltime undergraduates should expect to spend about 200 hours across the course (this figure includes workshop hours).

## Assessment

Assessment is based on the portfolio you submit at the end of the course. Participation in class during the trimester will be taken into consideration; a thoughtful response to your classmates' work is of paramount importance.

Two typewritten or printed copies of your portfolio must be submitted by **Friday 20 June**.

Two examiners (William Brandt and one external examiner) will read each folio. After assessment is completed, one copy of your folio will be returned to you, along with the written reports of the two readers.

CREW 254 is assessed on a pass / fail basis only. If you pass the course, you will receive Grade P (Ungraded Pass).

## Submission and return of work

The final portfolio should be submitted either to the Administration Office of the IIML (Room 402, 16 Waiteata Road), or at the folio hand-in function on Friday 20 June (location to be advised). One copy will be returned with a copy of each examiner's report approximately one month after 20 June.

## Materials and equipment and/or additional expenses

**Note** Photocopying will be an additional expense for you. You will need to bring **thirteen** copies of each piece of work to workshop meetings.

## Set texts

There is one set text for this course, a Course Reader (Student Notes) which is an anthology of short stories. This will be sold from vicbooks: [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz).

## Recommended reading

An optional but recommended text is *The Elements of Style*, also available from vicbooks. This is a small, friendly manual full of helpful advice.

## Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:
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## Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)

- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades)
- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract)
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library/resources/subjectcontacts.html>
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)

## Workshop Timetable

Our first four meetings will focus on discussion of weekly exercise work. From then we will focus on folio work, workshopping 3 stories from 3 different class members each session.

The following schedule shows how it will work. Each group hands out their work the week before they are due to be workshopped. The process repeats so each student gets workshopped twice.

On the days your group is scheduled to hand out a story, ie the week before you are workshopped, you need to arrive **on time** with 12 printed copies of your work - one for each class member plus the convenor.

Friday	7 March	Introductory	
Friday	14 March	Exercise 1	
Friday	21 March	Exercise 2	
Friday	28 March	Exercise 3	<b>Group 1 hands out one story each</b>
Friday	4 April	Workshop Group 1	<b>Group 2 hands out one story each</b>
Friday	11 April	Workshop Group 2	<b>Group 3 hands out one story each</b>

**NB Friday 18 April is Good Friday. This will leave us one workshop short. The best option is probably to do it on the 18th anyway but we will discuss this in class.**

Friday	18 April	Workshop Group 3	Group 4 hands out one story each
Friday	9 May	Workshop group 4	<b>Group 1 hands out one story each</b>
Friday	16 May	Workshop group 1	<b>Group 2 hands out one story each</b>
Friday	23 May	Workshop group 2	<b>Group 3 hands out one story each</b>
Friday	30 May	Workshop group 3	<b>Group 4 hands out one story each</b>

Friday	6 June	Workshop group 4
Friday	20 June	Folios and reading journals due